



## **Report of Accomplishments**

**Fiscal Year: 2005**

**Benewah Soil & Water Conservation District**

**Address: P.O. Box 488**

**Plummer, Idaho 83851**

**Telephone Number: (208) 686-1699**

**Point of Contact: Billie Brown, Chairman**

**Counties Served: Benewah County & Shoshone County**

**Legislative District(s) 2**

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### **Function or Conservation District Mission**

- Promoting the wise use of soil, water and other natural resources at the local level by utilizing available financial, technical and educational resources and coordinating those sources to meet the needs of the local landowner and land user.

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### **Natural Resource Improvements Summary**

- There were 13 EQIP applications accepted this year and 8 contracts.
- A total of 8 CRP applications were accepted this year; there are 161 active CRP contracts in the district (10,740 acres).
- There are 3 active Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP) contracts.
- There are 11 Continuous Conservation Reserve Program (CCRP) contracts in the district.
- Provided general technical assistance to 75 landowners in cooperation with Natural Resources Conservation Service, Soil Conservation Commission & Idaho Association of Soil Conservation Districts.
- Completed a one-mile stretch of stream bank stabilization on Santa Creek. Sediment reduction is estimated at 180/tons/year.
- Participated in the Rock Washington watershed CSP.
- Over 10,000 tree seedlings were sold to assist landowners in reforestation efforts.



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### **Conservation District Priority # 1 – Water Quality**

- 17,760 feet of exclusion fencing installed, keeping livestock out of water bodies.
- 7 hardened cattle crossings, 7 rock chutes, 12 log/rock drop structures, 1,600 feet bank shaping, seeding and mulching were completed.
- Over 600 riparian/wetland plantings were completed.
- Provided \$85,552 in cost-share assistance for conservation practice implementation.
- 8 CRP contracts accepted.
- Submitted 3 grant proposals to Idaho DEQ for Nonpoint Source Management §319 subgrants.

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### **Conservation District Priority #2 – Non-Irrigated Cropland**

- 2 EQIP contracts accepted for direct seeding.
- 8 CRP contracts accepted.

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### **Conservation District Priority # 3 – Riparian**

- Over 600 riparian plantings were completed on Santa Creek.
- 2 EQIP projects on the St. Joe River included riparian plantings to address stream bank erosion.

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## Information & Education/ Public Outreach

- In the spring, the District sponsored a 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Forestry Awareness Day at Heyburn State Park. Reached approximately 150 students from five different school districts.
- In the fall, the District sponsored a 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Agriculture Awareness Day at the Coeur d' Alene Tribal Farm. Reached approximately 150 students from five different school districts.
- In May, the District sponsored a poster contest entitled "Celebrating Conservation" for all 4<sup>th</sup> through 6<sup>th</sup> grade students within the district. Over 75 students participated from three different school districts.
- The District sponsored an educational booth at the Benewah County Fair. The District was awarded second place in the educational division.
- The District now has a website to provide information to our landowners and land operators.
- The District distributed a newsletter to over 450 landowners.
- 10 news articles were published in the local newspaper.

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## Community Collaboration & Coordination

- The Benewah SWCD sponsored a breakfast meeting in January to provide information about available programs to landowners and land operators and to give them an opportunity to ask questions about the programs.
- The District participated in two Hangman Creek TMDL Implementation meetings in Fairfield, Washington and two meetings in Tensed, Idaho with both the Coeur d' Alene Tribe and the Spokane County Conservation District.
- The District participated in the St. Joe/St. Maries WAG and serves as the coordinator for meetings.
- The District is an active participant in the Panhandles Lakes RC&D Council.
- The District participated in the EQIP Local Working Group Committee to develop ranking criteria at the local level.

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**Synopsis of Assistance Coordinated for Constituents with Conservation Partners** - to plan, design and implement best management practices to protect, enhance, and conserve Idaho's renewable natural resources.

Source	Purpose/Benefit	Funded Amount
Benewah County	District Operations	\$ 3,500.00
Shoshone County	District Operations	750.00
State	District Operations	10,450.00
EPA/DEQ 319	Non-Point Source Pollution	32,528.00
WQPA*	Water Quality	27,885.00
USDA Farm Program	Conservation	<u>445,024.00</u>
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>\$ 520,137.00</b>

\* WQPA Grant received 1/05

**Idaho Conservation Districts  
assisting landowners & operators  
with their conservation choices.**

